Applicant : Stefan Kiefer, et al.
Serial No. : 10/695,621
Filed : October 28, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: 13914-016001 / 2003P00626
US

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:
Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A system for managing bidding information, comprising:

    pricing storage that maintains information relating to pricing structures and pricing amounts;

    a bid invitation generator associated with a buyer and adapted to present information relating to a buyer requirement for review by a plurality of potential bidders;

    an interface that provides the information relating to a buyer requirement to the plurality of potential bidders in the form of a bid invitation; and

    a contract engine responsive to bids submitted by one or more bidders and configured to receive a bid comprising a pricing structure and pricing amounts from a first bidder, and to make available the pricing structure for review by other potential bidders.

2. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the contract engine is configured to make the pricing amounts from the first bidder available for review by other potential bidders.

3. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, further comprising a bid aggregator adapted to generate a summary of pricing terms from bids received from among the plurality of potential bidders.

4. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 3, wherein the bid aggregator is configured to score the bids according to a predetermined scoring standard.

5. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 4, wherein the highest scoring bidder is selected as a winning bidder.

6. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the contract engine is configured to form a contract including pricing information related to pricing structure and pricing amounts submitted by a winning bidder.

7. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 6, wherein the interface supervises contracting workflow to allow for approval of the contract.

8. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the pricing structure comprises location-specific pricing information.

9. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the pricing structure comprises date-based pricing information.

10. (Withdrawn) A computer-implemented system for managing bidding information, comprising:

pricing storage that maintains information relating to pricing structures and pricing amounts;

a bid invitation generator associated with a buyer and adapted to present information relating to a buyer requirement for review by a plurality of potential bidders;

an interface that provides the information relating to a buyer requirement to the plurality of potential bidders in the form of a bid invitation; and

a contract engine responsive to bids submitted by one or more bidders and configured to receive a bid comprising a pricing structure and pricing amounts from a first bidder.

11. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the pricing structure comprises location-specific pricing information.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the pricing structure comprises date-based pricing information.

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13. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of managing bid pricing information, comprising:

receiving transaction information and item data from a buyer;

generating a bid invitation containing entries relating to the transaction information and item data, and making the bid invitation available to a plurality of potential bidders;

receiving from one or more of the potential bidders ~~bid invitations~~ bid responses containing a complex pricing structure and corresponding complex pricing amounts;

wherein the complex pricing structure is selected and supplied by each potential bidder; and

selecting a winning bidder based on the complex pricing amounts.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein a complex pricing structure from a first bidder is made available for review by other potential bidders.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein complex pricing amounts from a first bidder are made available for review by other potential bidders.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, further comprising generating a summary of pricing terms from bids received from among the plurality of potential bidders.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising scoring the bids according to a predetermined scoring standard.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, further comprising selecting the highest scoring bidder as a winning bidder.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, further comprising forming a contract including pricing information related to pricing structure and pricing amounts submitted by a winning bidder.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the complex pricing structure comprises location-specific pricing information.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the complex pricing structure comprises date-based pricing information.